

# Statutory Instruments with Clear Reports

23 September 2019

## SL(5)441 – Code of Practice for the Welfare of Laying Hens and Pullets

### Procedure: Negative

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This Code of Practice is issued under section 14 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 (the “Act”). The Welsh Government undertook a review of the existing Code (which was issued in 2002) and consulted upon it between November 2017 and February 2018.

This Code of Practice applies in Wales only, is issued by the Welsh Ministers and comes into force on 12 November 2019. It covers all parts of the laying hen production sector, including pullets and breeding birds, and all types of husbandry systems. It covers single or multiple laying hens kept on a smallholding (hobby/backyard flock), as well as commercial laying hen producers.

The purpose of the Code is to ensure that those who are responsible for an animal are aware they have a legal duty to take reasonable steps to ensure its welfare needs are met, and explains what those persons must do in order to meet the standard of care that the law requires.

### Procedure

The Code of Practice is issued under section 14 of the 2006 Act, which allows the National Assembly for Wales to publish practical guidance in respect of any provision under the Act. The power to publish guidance was transferred from the Assembly to Welsh Ministers by paragraph 30 of Schedule 11 of the 2006 Act. Section 16 requires that a draft of the Code is published, consulted on, and any consultation responses are considered. These steps have been taken.



A draft of the code must be laid before the Assembly. If, within 40 days (excluding any time when the Assembly is dissolved or is in recess for more than 4 days) of the draft being laid, the Assembly resolves not to approve the draft code then the Welsh Ministers must not issue the code.

If no such resolution is made, the Welsh Ministers must issue the code (in the form of the draft) and the code comes into force in accordance with its provisions. The intended date in this case is 12 November 2019.

**Parent Act:** Animal Welfare Act 2006

**Date Made:**

**Date Laid:** 09 September 2019

**Coming into force date:**

